

Washington, DC – Today, Congressman Charlie Wilson (OH-6) voted to increase funding for the “cash for clunkers” program. The initial launch has been so successful in encouraging Americans to trade in their old gas guzzlers for new fuel-efficient cars, that funding ran out and Congress is acting quickly to extend it. The House passed the increase today and the Senate is expected to vote next week.

The program allows consumers to trade in their old, gas-guzzling cars for vouchers worth up to \$4,500 to help pay for new, more fuel-efficient vehicles. Almost 200,000 cars have already been bought through the program, and it is expected to spur the sale of up to 800,000 more fuel-efficient cars and trucks, while stimulating the ailing auto industry and reducing our dependence on foreign oil.

“This is a smart program that’s working and we want to solidify it,” Wilson said. “This is a strong part of the Recovery program that’s stabilizing our auto industry, growing a clean energy economy, and helping working families save money at the pump.”

The legislation provides rebates for cars and trucks in the following four categories:

- **Passenger Cars:** The old vehicle must get 18 mpg or less. New vehicles with improvement of at least 4 mpg will get a \$3,500 voucher. New vehicles with improvement of at least 10 mpg will get a \$4,500 voucher.
- **Light-Duty Trucks:** The old vehicle must get 18 mpg or less. New vehicles with improvement of at least 2 mpg will get a \$3,500 voucher. New vehicles with improvement of at least 5 mpg will get a \$4,500 voucher.
- **Large light-Duty Trucks:** The old vehicle must get 15 mpg or less. New vehicles with improvement of at least 1 mpg will get a \$3,500 voucher or trade-in of a “work truck.” New vehicles with improvement of at least 2 mpg will get a \$4,500 voucher.
- **Work Trucks:** The old vehicle must be a pre-2002 model. New vehicles in the same or smaller weight class will get a \$3,500 voucher.

The initial bipartisan legislation was supported by a broad coalition that includes the AFL-CIO, UAW, car dealers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers.

“This is a strong bipartisan effort that helps everyone win,” Wilson said. “We’re saving jobs, and saving millions of gallons of gas by taking old cars off the road and helping working families afford fuel efficient vehicles.”